

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 913

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to commend Representative Raumesh Akbari for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the House of Representatives.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should pause to honor those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with the utmost integrity and whose efforts during their time in office have been dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to their districts and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative Raumesh Akbari of Memphis is one such distinguished public servant who has served both her constituency and this legislative body with honor and ability; and

WHEREAS, Representative Akbari is a highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of Shelby County, and she has served her constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at her elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, Raumesh Akbari has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the good people of the 91st House District, whom she has served as a member of the 108th, 109th, and 110th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, throughout her service in the House of Representatives, Raumesh Akbari has been prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes her conscience; and

WHEREAS, as an active and dynamic participant in the legislative process during her time in the General Assembly, Representative Akbari has rendered sterling service as a member of the House Criminal Justice Committee, the House Education Administration and

Planning Committee, the House Ethics Committee, the House Education Committee, the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee, and the House Ethics Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, known for her political prowess, Representative Akbari has provided her talent and skills to such organizations as the Council of State Governments' Leadership Council of 2017; the Council of State Governments' Interbranch Affairs Committee, which she co-chaired; Women in Government, which she served as state leader; the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators, which she served as chair and vice chair; the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, which she served as co-chair of the Committee on Children, Youth and Families and treasurer; the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women, which she served as financial secretary; the Democratic Party of Shelby County; Shelby County Young Democrats; and Democratic Women of Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, she gives back to her community by lending her leadership and thoughtfulness to such groups as the NAACP, Memphis Urban League of Young Professionals, Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association Meals on Wheels, and Mt. Carmel and Hollywood Cemetery Clean-Up Initiative; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Raumesh Akbari received Washington University's Paul Robeson Award for Leadership, the National Juvenile Justice Network's 2016 Reformer Award, Mothers of the Nile's 2016 Advocacy Award, and the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women's (N.O.B.E.L.) 2014 Spark Award; and

WHEREAS, she was named the 2016 Woman of the Year by N.O.B.E.L., the 2016 Region IX Legislator of the Year by the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, and NBCSL's Corporate Roundtable's "Legislator of the Year" in 2017. She also placed on *The Memphis Flyer's* 2014 "20 Under 30" List; and

WHEREAS, she has received awards from the Council of State Governments and its affiliated Southern Legislative Conference, the National Council of State Legislatures, the State Legislative Leaders Foundation, and *Governing Magazine's* Governing Institute; and

WHEREAS, she was invited by the Canadian Embassy and Canadian Consulates General to participate in Canada's Rising State Leaders Program, by the American Council of Young Political Leaders to take part in an exchange program in Australia, by the Council of

State Governments to participate in a program in China, and by the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network to join American dignitaries in Western Europe; and

WHEREAS, Representative Akbari received a most special honor when she was invited by the Democratic National Committee to speak before the 2016 Democratic National Convention, representing young voters with a rousing speech before a nationally televised audience; and

WHEREAS, an alumna of Washington University in St. Louis, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree, Raumesh Akbari earned her Juris Doctorate degree from St. Louis University School of Law in 2009; and

WHEREAS, throughout her outstanding career as a public servant, Raumesh Akbari has worked tirelessly on behalf of her constituents, bringing to her office an honorable bearing and the traditional values of hard work and common sense; and

WHEREAS, a devoted professional and civic leader, Representative Akbari has proven that citizens can make a difference by being involved in community service and leading by example; and

WHEREAS, Representative Raumesh Akbari is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and she should be specially recognized for her exemplary tenure in this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Representative Raumesh Akbari for her meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the House of Representatives, commend her for her countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of the 91st House District, and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.